Libertarianism versus Liberalism

Modern idea of liberal democracies: government authority derives from the consent of the governed

I. Thomas Hobbes:
   A. State of Nature: life without any rules, no rights: “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, short”
   B. We give up our natural freedom to a tyrant who brings order

II. John Locke:
   A. State of Nature: life without government, though with God-given rights to life, liberty, property
   B. The government arises from a social contract to protect these rights
      1. Clarify, judge, and enforce these rights
      2. A model for the US government
      3. The right to revolution when the government fails to protect these rights
      4. Meritocracy

III. Robert Nozick (libertarianism): See Sandel video

IV. John Rawls (liberalism):
   A. A fair contract: The Original Position behind the Veil of Ignorance:
      1. Veil of Ignorance: We don't know what
      2. Question: what makes a contract fair?
         a) Source of obligation:
            (1) Freely made agreement
            (2) Mutual benefit: reciprocity
   B. What principles would we choose: principles of quality
      1. Maximize freedom, human rights: equality in freedom
      2. The Difference Principle: equality unless the worst off is better off
         a) Those who are richer are taxed so that the poor are benefitted
         b) Incentives to excel? You are rewarded in proportion to how much you benefit the worst off
   C. Rejected principles:
      1. Utilitarianism: fear of tyranny of the majority
      2. Meritocracy: some have unfair advantages either in upbringing or talent
         a) We can't take credit for either of these